

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A shoe comprising:
 - (a) a bottom surface that is adjacent to the ground in normal use and that has at least some indentations, with lower extending portions between the indentations;
 - (b) a sole that forms at least a portion of the bottom surface;
 - (c) an upper portion extending above the sole; and
 - (d) a plurality of small particles bonded to at least some of the lower extending portions, but wherein at least a portion of the indentations is not coated with said small particles.
2. A shoe according to claim 1, wherein at least 1,000 small particles are bonded to the at least some of the lower extending portions.
3. A shoe according to claim 1, wherein the small particles are bonded to the at least some of the lower extending portions using adhesive material.
4. A shoe according to claim 1, wherein the small particles are bonded to the at least some of the lower extending portions by embedding the small particles directly into said bottom surface using at least one of heat and pressure.
5. A shoe according to claim 1, wherein the small particles comprise a fabric material.
6. A shoe according to claim 5, wherein the fabric particles have been applied using a flocking technique.
7. A shoe according to claim 1, wherein the small particles comprise at least one of natural and synthetic leather.

8. A shoe according to claim 1, wherein the small particles comprise at least one of natural and synthetic rubber.
9. A shoe according to claim 1, wherein the small particles comprise metal.
10. A shoe according to claim 1, wherein the small particles comprise plastic.
11. A shoe according to claim 1, wherein the small particles have been bonded directly onto the at least some of the lower extending portions.
12. A shoe according to claim 1, wherein the sole is sufficiently durable for commercially acceptable outdoor use.
13. A shoe according to claim 1, wherein the sole includes an outsole having an ASTM-D624 tear resistance of at least 6 kilograms per centimeter.
14. A shoe according to claim 1, wherein the sole includes an outsole having an ASTM-D624 tear resistance of at least 9 kilograms per centimeter.
15. A shoe according to claim 1, wherein the sole includes an outsole having an ASTM-D624 tear resistance of at least 15 kilograms per centimeter.
16. A shoe according to claim 1, wherein the sole includes an outsole having an ASTM-D1630(NBS) abrasion resistance of at least 25%.
17. A shoe according to claim 1, wherein the sole includes an outsole having an ASTM-D1630(NBS) abrasion resistance of at least 35%.
18. A shoe according to claim 1, wherein the sole includes an outsole having an ASTM-D1630(NBS) abrasion resistance of at least 45%.

19. A shoe according to claim 1, wherein the sole includes an outsole that is comprised of at least one of leather, natural rubber and synthetic rubber.

20. A shoe according to claim 1, wherein with the small particles cover at least 50% of the portion of the bottom surface that normally comes into contact with the ground.

21. A shoe according to claim 1, wherein the small particles are bonded using a temporary adhesive that allows the particles to wear off during normal outdoor use.

22. A shoe according to claim 21, wherein the temporary adhesive allows the particles to wear off within no more than 3 days when worn outdoors in an urban environment on a full-time basis.

23. A shoe according to claim 21, wherein the temporary adhesive allows the particles to wear off within no more than 3 weeks when worn outdoors in an urban environment on a full-time basis.

24. A shoe according to claim 1, wherein the sole is sufficiently strong for commercially acceptable outdoor use.